(c) Yes Sir. Studies of the rocks reveal connection between India and Antarctica in geological past.

(d) The Antarctic research being carried out by Indian scientists would help us in understanding the icy continent in a better way. Benefits of the various programmes undertaken are as below:

i) Generation and publication of geological maps of an area of about 20,000 sq km in Central dronning Maud land of east Antarctica.

ii) Monitoring of fluctuations of polar continental ice margin, ablation and accumulation pattern of the ice shelf on a long term basis would help us to understand the ice dynamics and mass balance.

iii) Raising of ice cores by drilling on ice shelf and continental ice for contribution to the data on Palaeoclimatic of Holocene. The Antarctica preserves history of the earth's climate for 3 to 4 million years in its ice cover which is crucial for understanding of climate change.

iv) Utilization of the Polar Remote Sensing techniques for extraction of sea ice surface characteristics from the observed electromagnetic signatures sensed by the Space Borne Sensors and publishing an atlas on the Antarctic Sea Ice status.

v) Continuous observation of meteorological, seismic, environmental and other parameters that contribute data to the international network on continuous basis for understanding and drawing meaningful inferences for various disciplines of science.

vi) Sustained studies on bio-diversity of fauna and flora, microbial studies towards discovery of new species for understanding the biological processes and phenomenon of extremely cold climate.

(e) Anticipated expenditure on Scientific Expedition and researches in Antarctica during 2009-10 is Rs. 52 crore. Expenditure during first two years (2007-08 and 2008-09) of XI plan was Rs. 72.98 crore.

Visa issued to Chinese workers

3121. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:
SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any mechanism in his Ministry or Missions abroad to check whether Visas issued by its Missions abroad are not misused;

(b) whether the Ministry is aware of the working of 30,000 Chinese nationals illegally in various power and other projects in the country on Business Visas, rather than on Employment Visas, is against the Visa norms;

(c) if so, the details of Visas issued to Chinese workers presently working in various projects; and

(d) whether it is a fact that repatriation of illegal workers of any country and Chinese in the present case would lead to diplomatic issue?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (d) It has come to Government's attention that there have been instances where Chinese nationals on Business visas have been employed as workers on projects contracted by Chinese companies in India. Those who were working on a Business Visa were asked to leave by 31 October 2009, and to apply for Employment visa if they wish to come to India for projects related work. Government has directed all the Missions and Posts abroad to strictly enforce the norms specified in the Visa Manual. The Chinese side has been apprised of the matter. The Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs has posted an advisory on their website advising their nationals to obtain the proper visa before going to India on work related activities and asking those already in India not to engage in activities which do not match with the category of their visa.

Vote against Iran

3122. SHRI D. RAJA:
SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India had voted in favour of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) resolution to rebuke Iran for building a uranium enrichment plant in secret; and

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) Yes. India voted in favour of the resolution at the November 2009 meeting of the Governing Board of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Iran's nuclear issue.

(b) The resolution was adopted by 25 votes infavour, 3 against, 6 abstentions and 1 absent. India's position was laid out in the attached Explanation of Vote.

Explanation of Vote

The Indian delegation has taken careful note of the report of the DG on *Implementation of the NPT Safeguards Agreement and Relevant Provisions of Security Council Resolutions in the Islamic Republic of Iran*. In his Report the DG has noted that while the Agency has continued to verify the non-diversion of declared nuclear material in Iran, there has however, been no movement on remaining issues of concern which need to be clarified for the Agency to verify the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme.

The DG concluded that 'Iran's failure to notify the Agency of the existence of this facility until September 2009, rather than as soon as the decision to construct it or to authorize construction was taken, was inconsistent with its obligations under the Subsidiary Arrangements to its Safeguards Agreement and that Iran's late declaration of the new facility reduces confidence in the absence of other nuclear facilities under construction in Iran which have not been declared to the Agency.'

India has consistently supported the right of all states to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy consistent with the respective obligations that they have undertaken. In Iran's case which is a signatory to the NPT, it has all the rights and obligations that go with its membership of the NPT